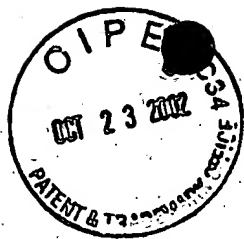


P21131.A03



#5
11.11
10-2802

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Izuru NAKAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1732

Appln No : 09/881,769

Examiner: S. Staicovici

Filed : June 18, 2001

For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LASER DRILLING

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
OCT 24 2002
TC 1700

Sir :

In response to the Examiner's Election requirement, set forth in an Official Action dated September 23, 2002 in which a one-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire October 23, 2002, Applicants hereby elect Group I, comprising claims 1-3. The above election is made with traverse for the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present paper, Applicants will have elected, with traverse, the invention of Group I, as defined by claims 1-3. In the above-noted Official Action, the Examiner required an election between two inventions comprising: Group I defined by claims 1-3, and Group II defined by claim 4.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above Election Requirement and submit that it is inappropriate. In particular, the outstanding Official Action asserts that "the process as claimed can